PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: O76031

Hidetsugu SHIMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: July 18, 2003

Examiner: Unknown

For:

IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT U.S. Appln. No.: Q76031

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 2002-72584 is cited and discussed on page 3 of the specification, is a background art of the present invention and corresponds to U.S. Patent Application 6,505,012, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0028084 and European Patent Application No. 1184732, these inventions are also background art of the present invention.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: July 18, 2003

Complete if Known Unknown

Unknown

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	

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TEMENT BY APPLICANT	Filing Date	July 18, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	Hidetsugu SHIMU	
ise as many sheets as necessary)	Art Unit	Unknown	
3,	Examiner Name	Unknown	
1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	076031	

Application Number Confirmation Number

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		Document Nu	mber	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
	Cite No. ¹	Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US 6,505,012	B2		Yoichiro MAEBASHI, et al.	
		US 2002/0028084	Ai	03/07/2002	Yoichiro MAEBASHI, et al.	
		US				
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Cite		Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	
List-late N. 1 Country	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶		
		JР	2002-72584	Α	03/12/2002		NO
		EP	1 184 731	A2	03/06/2002	Yoichiro MAEBASHI, et al.	
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OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.					
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	<u> </u>

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.